

NOAA Coastal Resource Coordination Program
New York Sites

OFFICE OF RESPONSE AND RESTORATION

CRC PROGRAM MISSION...

NOAA acts on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce as a Federal trustee, under CERCLA and other laws, for natural resources in coastal and marine areas. NOAA's mandate is to protect and restore trust resources that are injured by Superfund site contaminants. NOAA fulfills its responsibilities through an effective network of Coastal Resource Coordinators (CRCs) placed in eight EPA regional offices, as well as an interdisciplinary support group located in Seattle. NOAA CRCs respond to local technical requirements by identifying risks to natural resources, recommending protective remedial measures, and designing projects to restore injured resources and habitats in cooperation with the U.S. EPA, the State of New York, and other trustee agencies. Our goal is to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefit of healthy coastal ecosystems, abundant fishery stocks, and robust populations of marine mammals.

NOAA TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITY IN NEW YORK...

NOAA trust species in New York include the anadromous blueback herring, alewife, American shad, and striped bass and the catadromous American eel. Marine and estuarine species include Atlantic menhaden, tautog, bluefish, hake, seabass, mummichog, banded killifish, and several species of flounder. Invertebrate resources include the American lobster, eastern oyster, bay scallop, and several species of crabs, shrimp, mussels, and clams. Marine mammals include the federally endangered fin whale, Northern right whale, and humpback whale. Beluga whales in the St. Lawrence Seaway are among the other cetaceans of concern to NOAA. Several pinnipeds inhabit Long Island Sound during winter and have been sighted in the New York Harbor area. Three federally endangered (Kemp's ridley, green, leatherback) and one threatened (loggerhead) sea turtle species utilize coastal areas of New York, to varying degrees.

NOAA CRCs AND THE SITE CLEANUP PROCESS...

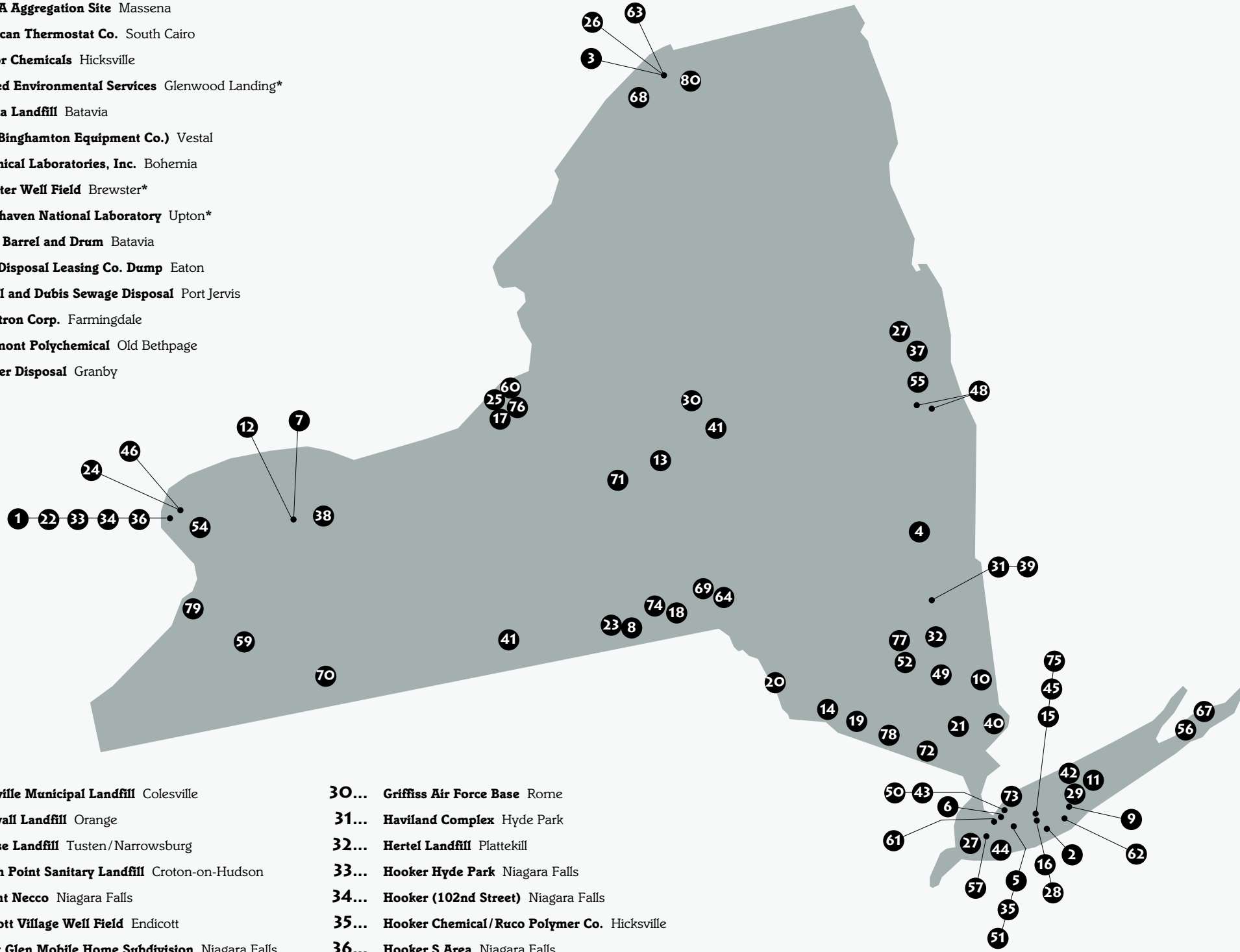
NOAA believes that ecological risk should be addressed as an integral part of the cleanup process wherever possible. Designing cleanups that protect both natural resources as well as human health is an efficient and effective way to address the ecological threat posed by coastal waste sites. Through CRC participation in the cleanup process, the government saves time and money by avoiding duplication of efforts. Responsible parties benefit from an early resolution of natural resource damage liability. Best of all, environmental threats are addressed sooner, increasing the chances for recovery and restoration of coastal and marine resources.

AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN NEW YORK...

The NOAA CRC Program is working to protect and restore natural resources throughout New York. The Hudson River is of particular concern due to elevated concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) which has resulted in EPA's designation of the lower 200 miles of river as the Hudson River PCBs Superfund site. For a period of approximately 30 years beginning in 1947, wastewater discharges containing significant quantities of PCBs flowed from two General Electric (GE) plants at Hudson Falls and Fort Edward into the waters and sediments of the Hudson River adjacent to the plants. From these areas the PCBs have spread down the entire river system through natural and human-directed perturbations. An estimated 15-20 metric tons of PCBs remain in the sediment of the Thompson Island Pool, the area upstream of the first dam below the two plant sites.

Elevated levels of PCBs have been detected in tissues of many species throughout the river. In 1976, because of PCB contamination, commercial striped bass harvests in the Hudson River were eliminated. Recreational fishing was banned

- 1... 93rd Street School Niagara Falls
- 2... Action Anodizing, Plating, and Polishing Copiague
- 3... ALCOA Aggregation Site Massena
- 4... American Thermostat Co. South Cairo
- 5... Anchor Chemicals Hicksville
- 6... Applied Environmental Services Glenwood Landing*
- 7... Batavia Landfill Batavia
- 8... BEC (Binghamton Equipment Co.) Vestal
- 9... Bioclinical Laboratories, Inc. Bohemia
- 10... Brewster Well Field Brewster*
- 11... Brookhaven National Laboratory Upton*
- 12... Byron Barrel and Drum Batavia
- 13... C & J Disposal Leasing Co. Dump Eaton
- 14... Carroll and Dubis Sewage Disposal Port Jervis
- 15... Circuitron Corp. Farmingdale
- 16... Claremont Polychemical Old Bethpage
- 17... Clothier Disposal Granby



- 18... Colesville Municipal Landfill Colesville
- 19... Cornwall Landfill Orange
- 20... Cortese Landfill Tusten/Narrowsburg
- 21... Croton Point Sanitary Landfill Croton-on-Hudson
- 22... DuPont Necco Niagara Falls
- 23... Endicott Village Well Field Endicott
- 24... Forest Glen Mobile Home Subdivision Niagara Falls
- 25... Fulton Terminals Oswego
- 26... General Motors (Central Foundry) Massena*
- 27... G.E. Moreau South Glen Falls
- 28... Genzale Plating Co. Franklin Square
- 29... Goldisk Recordings, Inc. Holbrook
- 30... Griffiss Air Force Base Rome
- 31... Haviland Complex Hyde Park
- 32... Hertel Landfill Plattekill
- 33... Hooker Hyde Park Niagara Falls
- 34... Hooker (102nd Street) Niagara Falls
- 35... Hooker Chemical/Ruco Polymer Co. Hicksville
- 36... Hooker S Area Niagara Falls
- 37... Hudson River PCBs Glen Falls*
- 38... Jones Chemicals, Inc. Caledonia
- 39... Jones Sanitation Hyde Park
- 40... Katonah Municipal Well Bedford
- 41... Kentucky Avenue Well Field Horseheads

- 42... Lawrence Aviation Industries Port Jefferson Station
- 43... Li Tungsten Corp. Glen Cove*
- 44... Liberty Heat Treating Co., Inc. Ozone Park
- 45... Liberty Industrial Finishing Farmingdale
- 46... Love Canal Niagara Falls
- 47... Ludlow Sand and Gravel Paris
- 48... Malta Rocket Fuel Area Malta/Stillwater
- 49... Marathon Battery Corp. Cold Spring*
- 50... Mattiace Petrochemical Co., Inc. Glen Cove*
- 51... Mek Spill-Hicksville Hicksville
- 52... Nepera Chemical Co., Inc. Maybrook
- 53... Newstead Newstead
- 54... Niagara County Refuse Wheatfield
- 55... Niagara Mohawk Power Co. Saratoga Springs
- 56... North Sea Municipal Landfill Southampton*
- 57... Pasley Solvents and Chemicals, Inc. Hempstead
- 58... Pennsylvania / Fountain Avenue Landfill Brooklyn
- 59... Peter Cooper Gowanda
- 60... Pollution Abatement Services Oswego
- 61... Port Washington Landfill Port Washington*
- 62... Preferred Plating Corp. Babylon
- 63... Reynolds Metal Co. Massena
- 64... Richardson Hill Road Landfill Sidney Center
- 65... Robintech/National Pipe Vestal
- 66... Rosen Bros. Scrapyard Cortland
- 67... Rowe Industries Groundwater Contamination Sag Harbor*
- 68... Sealand Restoration Lisbon
- 69... Sidney Landfill Sidney
- 70... Sinclair Refinery Wellsville
- 71... Solvent Savers Lincklaen
- 72... Suffern Village Well Field Suffern
- 73... Syosset Landfill Oyster Bay
- 74... Tri-Cities Barrel Co., Inc. Fenton
- 75... Tronic Plating Co., Inc. Farmingdale
- 76... Volney Municipal Landfill Volney
- 77... Wallkill Landfill Wallkill
- 78... Warwick Landfill Warwick
- 79... Wide Beach Development Brant
- 80... York Oil Co. Moira

NOAA has developed a one-page fact sheet for sites marked with an asterisk. The fact sheets provide a physical description of the site and the contamination present, list the NOAA resources of concern, and summarize NOAA's involvement in the cleanup process.

in the Upper Hudson below Hudson Falls between 1976 and 1995, and it is currently limited to catch and release only along this stretch of the river. Fish in other areas of the Hudson River are subject to consumption advisories of varying degrees due to PCB contamination. The endangered shortnosed sturgeon, resident in the river, spawns in areas of contaminated sediments located immediately below the dam at Troy. PCB concentrations in fish in the Hudson River have historically been detected well above the 2 ppm tolerance level recommended by the Food and Drug Administration. Since 1983, PCB concentrations in fish in the main stem of the Hudson River have shown little evidence of decline, and in 1996 concentrations averaged 12 ppm for fish in the Upper Hudson River and 3 ppm in the Lower Hudson River.

The NOAA CRC program, working with EPA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), has been pivotal in efforts to ensure that Superfund remedial investigations at the site accurately characterize the extent and degree of contamination, including the fate and transport of PCBs, and potential threats to natural resources in the Hudson River. NOAA has worked closely with EPA and NYSDEC on evaluation and interpretation of data collected as part of the Reassessment Remedial Investigation (RRI) which EPA initiated in 1989. The NOAA CRC program assisted EPA in developing and implementing a field sampling plan for the RRI ecological assessment. The program conducted congener-specific PCB analysis on fish collected from multiple locations distributed over 170 miles of the Hudson River downstream of the GE facilities. Results from this study indicate that PCBs found in fish tissue throughout the study area originate predominantly from areas above the Thompson Island Dam and are consistent with the GE source. NOAA's interpretation of various Hudson River studies, in cooperation with NYSDEC, is playing an important role in EPA's ecological risk assessment and evaluation of remedial alternatives. NOAA CRC staff continues to work with EPA, the State of New York, DOI, and representatives of GE to help develop consensus on approaches for achieving the most protective remedy, assessing residual injury, and planning restoration.

Other areas of special concern in New York are:

- Long Island Sound because it provides spawning, nursery, and adult refuge habitat for a variety of NOAA trust resources and supports recreational and commercial fisheries. Hazardous waste sites of concern in this area are Mattiace Petrochemical Company, Li Tungsten Corporation, Applied Environmental Services, and Port Washington Landfill.
- At Applied Environmental Services site, the NOAA CRC program is continuing to work with EPA and co-trustees (New York and DOI) to ensure implementation of a comprehensive Superfund settlement including a protective remedy, restoration of valuable Spartina habitat in Hempstead Cove and Motts Cove, and off-site wetland enhancement.
- Groundwater contamination from Liberty Industrial Finishing discharges to Massepequa Creek upstream of South Oyster Bay. The lower creek and South Oyster Bay provide habitat for anadromous and catadromous fish. Marine and estuarine fish and invertebrate species also use the Bay for spawning, nurseries, and adult foraging. The Bay supports important commercial and recreational fisheries.
- Niagara River and surroundings include a number of highly toxic sites such as Love Canal, Hooker (102nd Street), Hooker Chemical S Area, Hooker Hyde Park, and DuPont Necco.
- St. Lawrence River is of special concern because of PCB contamination. Beluga whales are potentially threatened from the consumption of PCB-contaminated American eels. Sites contributing to PCB loadings are General Motors, ALCOA Aggregation site, and Reynolds Metal Company.

FYI...

For more information about NOAA's CRC program in New York, please contact:

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